

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 SCI-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO USDOC WASHDC

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STATE FOR AF/N

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, BEXP, TS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON USE OF GYPSUM

1. HASSEN BOUSSOFFARA, SPECIAL ADVISOR TO MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY, HAS ASKED EMBASSY FOR INFORMATION REGARDING TECHNIQUES TO PROCESS GYPSUM INTO GYPSUM BOARD. BOUSSOFFARA RESPONSIBLE FOR MINISTRY IN REGARD PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, INCLUDING CONTAMINATION OF MEDITERRANEAN FROM GYPSUM FROM PHOSPHORIC ACID PLANT IN GABES. AT PRESENT, 600,000 METRIC TONS OF GYPSUM BEING DUMPED INTO SEA WITH SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO FISHLIFE. THIS WILL INCREASE TO 1.5 MILLION MT IN SEVERAL YEARS.

2. IBRD/IFC ADVISOR DURING RECENT VISIT SUGGESTED THAT THIS UNWANTED PRODUCT COULD BE PSY IN ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE IE BY TRANSFORMING IT INTO GYPSUM BOARD FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES. ANOTHER GOT OFFICIAL SUGGESTED THAT GYPSUM CAN BE USED TO MAKE SULPHURIC ACID AND CEMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY LITERATURE WE CAN PASS ON TO BOUSSOFFARA ON USE AND MANUFACTURE OF GYPSUM BOARD AND ON PRODUCTION OF SULPHURIC ACID AND CEMENT FROM GYPSUM. ALSO REQUEST NAMES AND ADDRESSES

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OF AMERICAN SUPPLIERS OR MANUFACTURERS OF EQUIPMENT USED IN

PRODUCTION OF ABOVE-MENTIONED PRODUCTS. WE BELIEVE THIS
COULD REPRESENT SIGNIFICANT EXPORT OPPORTUNITY FOR
EQUIPMENT IF PRODUCTION THESE GOODS FROM GYPSUM IN TUNISIA
IS TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE.

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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